

What Is Claimed Is:

1 1. A memory system comprising:
2 a memory array containing a first plurality of cells, each of first plurality of cells
3 storing a corresponding one of a plurality of data values;
4 a decoding circuit selectively coupling a first cell to a bit line according to an access
5 address, wherein said first cell is comprised in said plurality of cells; and
6 a sense amplifier determining whether a current path is present on said bit line, said
7 sense amplifier generating a first logical value as an output if said current path is present on
8 said bit line and another logical value as said output otherwise, wherein said output represents
9 a data value stored in said first cell.

1 2. The memory system of claim 1, wherein said first cell is designed to provide an
2 open path to said bit line if said another logical value is stored and a closed path to said bit
3 line if said first logical value is stored.

1 3. The memory system of claim 2, wherein said sense amplifier comprises:
2 a first transistor having a gate terminal connected to a sense enable signal;
3 a second transistor and a third transistor forming a current mirror, a drain terminal of
4 each of said second transistor and said third transistor being connected to a source terminal
5 of said first transistor, a gate terminal of said second transistor being connected to a gate
6 terminal of said third transistor, said gate terminal of said second transistor also being
7 connected to a source terminal of said second transistor at a first node, said bit line also being
8 connected to said first node;

9 a fourth transistor having a gate terminal connected to said sense enable signal, a drain
10 terminal of said fourth transistor being connected to said first node;

11 a resistor being connected to a source terminal of said third transistor at a second
12 node; and

13 an inverter having an input coupled to said second node, wherein an output of said
14 inverter represents said output of said sense amplifier.

1 4. The memory system of claim 3, wherein each of said first transistor, said second
2 transistor, and said third transistor comprises a PMOS transistor, and said fourth transistor
3 comprises a NMOS transistor, a drain terminal of said first transistor being connected to a
4 supply voltage, a source terminal of said fourth transistor being connected to said ground, and
5 a second end of said resistor also being connected to said ground.

1 5. The memory system of claim 4 wherein each of said plurality of cells comprises
2 a transistor, said transistor being programmed to store one logic level if said bit line is
3 connected to a drain terminal of said transistor and another logic level otherwise.

1 6. The memory system of claim 5, wherein said memory array comprises a compiler
2 memory.

1 7. The memory system of claim 6, wherein each of said plurality of data values
2 comprises a bit.

1 8. The memory system of claim 1, wherein said memory array is provided in the form
2 of a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns, said decoding circuit comprising:

3 a row decoder to select one of said plurality of rows; and

4 a column decoder to select one of said plurality of columns.

1 9. The memory system of claim 1, wherein said memory array comprises an actual
2 memory array.

1 10. The memory system of claim 1, further comprising a latch coupled to said output
2 of said sense amplifier.

1 11. The memory system of claim 1, wherein said sense amplifier is implemented
2 without using a reference signal which may be used for comparison with said current to
3 determine the value of said one of said plurality of data values to be provided on said bit line.